

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Page 1, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:*

“In a case where data obtained from photographing by some photographing apparatus such as a sensor, a camera, etc. are displayed on a monitor screen, an X-ray diagnosis film, etc., it is general that the photographed data are subjected to some gradation transformation, wherein the acquired data are converted into easy-to-observe density values. For example, FIGS. 3A and 3B are views schematically showing a radiation image of the abdomen, wherein the numeral 301 represents a spinal region, the numeral 302 denotes a gas generated in the abdomen, and the numeral 303 indicates a region from which a characteristic value for the gradation transformation is extracted. The characteristic value has hitherto been calculated from pixel values in the region ~~403~~ 304, and the gradation transformation has been conducted based on this characteristic value.”